AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

686
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 9, 1954
DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch 679, February 8.

FEB 10 1954

ACTION DEPT. RC/R-2 OCI-6 EUR/X-1 ND-4 P/
INFO OTR CIA-7 Army-3 Navy-3 Air-3

SUBJECT: Guatemala Makes Representations About State Department's Release Denying U.S. Involvement in "International Plot."

During the course of Ambassador PEURIFOY's call on Foreign Minister Guillermo TORIELLO on February 8 the Foreign Minister handed him a note requesting him to transmit to the U.S. Government the Guatemalan Government's "deep concern" about the statements made by the Department of State in its press release of January 30 which "maliciously" gave the impression that the Guatemalan Government's recent denunciation of an "international plot" directed against it was connected with the recent change in the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry and the "trips of labor leaders to other countries." The allusion was to the Department's statement that the Guatemalan Government's charges of a plot might be connected with the recent return of the Guatemalan Communist leaders, Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ and José Manuel FORTUNY, from the Soviet Union.

The Guatemalan note said that it was "completely erroneous" for the Department to affirm that the Guatemalan Government had accused the United States of having given its consent to the carrying out of subversive acts against Guatemala. "The Government of Guatemala," it stated, "has directed no charge of any sort against any government or any foreign official."

The note added that the Guatemalan Government had confined itself to producing "authentic documents" in which the Guatemalan exiles on their own initiative compromised those governments and persons.

The note also embodied the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry's press release of February 6 which was transmitted with this Embassy's Despatch 679 of February 3.

An informal translation and a transcription of the note are enclosed. It has not been made public here.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Enclosures:
1. Translation of Note.
2. Spanish text " "

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

JCHill:cs
REPORTER

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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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(Informal Translation, Foreign Office Note No. 2238, Feb. 8, 1954)

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
DIPLOMATIC SECTION
2238

Guatemala, February 8, 1954

Mr. Ambassador:

It was with great surprise that this Ministry learned of the press statement issued by the Department of State of the United States on January 30 of this year, in connection with the documents which the Government of Guatemala made public which constitute part of the evidence of a conspiracy plotted by Guatemalan exiles against the constitutional regime in Guatemala.

In that statement the Department of State affirms that the Guatemalan Government accuses the Government of the United States of having given its consent to the carrying out of subversive acts against Guatemala.

That statement is completely erroneous. The Government of Guatemala has directed no charge of any sort against any Government or any foreign official. It has confined itself to producing authentic documents in which the Guatemalan exiles, on their own initiative, compromised those governments and persons.

In view of the international repercussions which the State Department's statement, the contents of which my Government must reject categorically as insulting, has had through the world, the Ministry of Foreign Relations on Saturday, February 6, made public the following communique:

"The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic, on learning of the Department of State of the United States of America's statements made public under the date of January 30 of this year concerning the publication of the documents which in a trustworthy manner prove the existence of a foreign conspiracy to invade the Guatemalan territory, makes in its turn the following statements.

"1. The Department of State, feeling that the United States was referred to by the phrase "government of the North" which Carlos CASTILLO Armas used in a letter dated September 20, 1953, stating that that government had taken 'a decision to allow' the development of the plans of an armed movement for the purpose of invading Guatemala, has declared that the North American government

had no participation in this movement. However, the Department of State has done nothing to deny the statements of some high North American officials who have made declarations in favor of the supposed necessity of intervening in the internal affairs of Guatemala through a 'unilateral' action of force against Guatemala on the pretext that our country because it 'has a Communist government is a threat to the American hemisphere.'

"2. The Government of Guatemala indignantly rejects the description of a 'mendacious propaganda campaign' which the Department of State has allowed itself to use to describe the statements of the Government of Guatemala in publishing the documents of the criminal conspiracy which has been prepared against our country, as well as the absurd suppositions made by the Department of State that these statements are connected with the trips of some workers' leaders to various countries. With this the Department of State has sought to insinuate that the Guatemalan Government could receive instructions from foreign governments. The Guatemalan Government considers that such an insinuation is an insult to the sovereignty which it exercises in the name of the Guatemalan people, and it also rejects the use of such expressions which are not proper in the language between sovereign states.

"The Government of Guatemala has been definite, when the danger was most real and imminent, to denounce an international conspiracy directed against it and to publish the authentic documents proving the existence of such a conspiracy. The Government of Guatemala is not accusing any government or any foreign official, but has simply limited itself to reproducing authentic documents in which the Guatemalan exiles themselves compromise these governments and persons.

"3. The Government of Guatemala likewise categorically rejects as mendacious the Department of State's opinion that the publications of the Government of Guatemala 'immediately prior to the Tenth Inter-American Conference are a Communist effort to disrupt the work of the Conference and international solidarity,' not only because such an affirmation completely lacks any foundation, but also because it shows the same insistence on considering the Government of Guatemala as of a 'Communist nature' with the object to attempt to justify unilateral action against Guatemala.

"The Government of Guatemala again insists, for the Nth time, that it is not Communist nor is its program

of the present Guatemalan Government is directed at promoting economic and social reforms such as the Agrarian Reform; at constructing progressive works undertaken exclusively with national resources; at obtaining a better level of living for the people; and defending whole the sovereignty of the nation. These measures are precisely those which, on clashing with the interests of foreign companies, constitute the cause in a large part of the propaganda campaign of threats against the Government of Guatemala undertaken by some periodicals and high officials of North America."

I most respectfully request Your Excellency to transmit to your Illustrious Government, the deep concern with which the Guatemalan Government has learned of the content of the oft-cited statement which, among other things, maliciously gives the impression that the denunciation which my Government was forced to make of the criminal conspiracy which Guatemalan elements in exile were preparing against Guatemala, is connected with the recent change which has taken place in the Ministry of Foreign Relations and with the return of labor leaders from their visit to other countries. These ideas, together with others contained in the statement, can under no circumstances be accepted by my Government, and my Government is of the belief that they can serve only to damage the friendly relations which, based on mutual respect, should exist among sovereign States.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to the Ambassador the assurances of my highest consideration.

(s) Guillermo Toriello

(Informal Translation by R. Dossick)

(Foreign Office Note No. 2238, February 8, 1954)

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA
SECCION DIPLOMATICA
2238

Guatemala, 8 de Febrero de 1954

Señor Embajador :

Con verdadera sorpresa este Ministerio se ha enterado de la declaración de prensa expedida por el Honorable Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos el 30 de enero del año en curso, en relación con los documentos que el Gobierno de Guatemala hizo publicar, los cuales constituyen parte de las pruebas de una conspiración urdida por emigrados guatemaltecos en contra del régimen constitucional de Guatemala.

En dicha declaración, el Departamento de Estado asegura que el Gobierno de Guatemala acusa al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de haber dado su consentimiento para que se realicen actos subversivos en contra de Guatemala.

Tal afirmación es completamente errónea. El Gobierno de Guatemala no ha formulado cargo alguno contra ningún Gobierno ni contra ningún funcionario extranjero. Simplemente se ha limitado a reproducir documentos auténticos, en los cuales, los emigrados guatemaltecos, bajo su propia responsabilidad, comprometen a esos Gobiernos y personas.

En vista de la repercusión internacional que la declaración del Departamento de Estado ha tenido en todo el mundo y cuyos términos desde luego mi Gobierno no puede menos que rechazar categóricamente por injuriosos, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, con fecha sábado 6 del mes en curso dió a la publicidad el siguiente comunicado:

> El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Guatemala, al conocer las declaraciones del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, dadas a la publicidad con fecha 30 de enero, referentes a la publicación de los documentos que prueban rehacientemente la existencia de una conjuración exterior destinada a invadir el territorio guatemalteco hace a su vez las siguientes declaraciones.
>
> 1° El Departamento de Estado, sitiendo aludido al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos con la frase "gobierno del Norte", que estampó Carlos Castillo Armas en una carta de fecha 20 de Septiembre de 1953, expresando que

aquel Gobierno había tomado "la decisión de permitir" el desarrollo de los planes de un movimiento armado destinado a invadir a Guatemala, ha manifestado que el Gobierno norteamericano no tiene participación en dicho movimiento. Sin Embargo, el Depto. de Estado no ha hecho nada para desmentir las declaraciones de algunos altos funcionarios norteamericanos, que han manifestado la supuesta necesidad de intervenir en los asuntos internos de Guatemala, mediante una acción "unilateral" de fuerza contra Guatemala, a pretexto de que nuestro país por "contrar con un Gobierno comunista, es una amenaza para la seguridad del continente americano".

2° El Gobierno de Guatemala rechaza con indignación la calificación de "campaña de propaganda mendaz" con que el Depto. de Estado se ha permitido denominar las declaraciones del Gobierno de Guatemala, al publicar los documentos de la criminal conspiración que se ha urdido contra nuestro país, así como las absurdas suposiciones que ha hecho el Depto. de Estado de que tales declaraciones están vinculadas a los viajes de algunos dirigentes obreros por varios países. Con ello el Depto. de Estado ha querido insinuar que el Gobierno de Guatemala podría recibir instrucciones de Gobiernos extranjeros. El Gobierno de Guatemala considera que tal insinuación es un insulto a la soberanía que ejerce en nombre del; pueblo de Guatemala y vuelve a reiterar que no solo no es in trumento de ninguna potencia extranjerá, sino que rechaza uso de expresiones semejantes, que no son propias del lenguaje entre Estados soberanos.

El Gobierno de Guatemala se ha concretado, cuando el peligro era más real e inminete, a denunciar una conspiración internacional tramadd en su contra y a publicar los documentos probatorios de la existencia de tal conspiración. El Gobierno de Guatemala no está acusando a ningún gobierno ni a ningún funcionario extranjero, sino simplemente se ha limitado a reproducir documentos auténticos, en los cuales los propios emigrados guatemaltecos comprometen a esos gobiernos y personas.

3° El Gobierno de Guatemala rechaza, asimismo, categóricamente por mendaz, la consideración del mismo Depto. de Estado, de que las publicaciones del Gobierno de Guatemala "en vísperas de la Décima Conferencia Interamericana, son un esfuerzo comunista para desbaratar la labor de esa conferencia y la solidaridad interamericana", no sólo porque tal afirmación carece por completo de base, sino porque revela la misma insistencia de considerar al Gobierno de Guatemala como de "naturaleza comunista", con el objeto de pretender justificar una acción unilateral contra Guatemala.

El Gobierno de Guatemala, vuelve a insistir, por enésima vez que no es comunista ni su programa está orientado a construir el comunismo. Lejos de eso, es bien sabido que el programa del actual Gobierno de Guatemala se orienta a impulsar reformas económicas y sociales, como la Reforma Agraria; a construir obras de progreso, emprendidas exclusivamente con los recursos nacionales; a procurar mayor bienestar para el pueblo y a defender incólumne la soberanía de la Nación. Estas medidas precísamente son las que, al chocar con intereses de compañías extranjeras, constituyen la causa, en gran parte, de la campaña de amenazas y de propaganda contra el Gobierno de Guatemala, mediante la acusación de comunismo, emprendida por algunos periódicos y altos funcionarios norteamericanos.

De la manera más atenta ruego a Vuestra Excelencia se sirva comunicar a su Ilustrado Gobierno, la honda preocupación con que el gobierno de Guatemala se ha enterado de los conceptos contenidos en la tantas veces citada declaración, entre los cuales, en forma maliciosa, se da la impresión que la denuncia que mi Gobierno se vió obligado a hacer sobre la criminal conspiración que elementos guatemaltecos en exilio preparaban contra Guatemala, coincide con el reciente cambio operado en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y con el regreso del viaje que hicieron dirigentes obreros a otros países. Estas expresiones unidas a las demás que contiene dicha declaración, no pueden ser aceptadas desde ningún punto de vista por mi Gobierno y cree que solo podrían causar daño a las relaciones de amistad que, a base de respeto mutuo, deben existir entre Estados soberanos.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para renovar al Señor Embajador, las seguridades de mi más alta consideración.

Guillermo Toriello